

To: SAS Dean's office Date: November 17, 2015
RE: Agenda Item for December 2015 SAS meeting

Proposal for establishing an SAS Faculty Forum

Faculty members have many professional responsibilities—teaching, mentoring, researching, administering via committees and offices, and professional obligations outside the university in our respective fields. The range of objectives within a single Department let alone a School or a discipline makes it impossible for every faculty member to be involved in every objective. The work is shared out.

There are, however, some matters about which the faculty as a whole should have conversations: e.g., curriculum, advising, and assessment. At present, there is no organization within the university for such conversations to take place. Faculty meetings are not amenable to extended discussion about these core matters.

Therefore, we propose instituting an SAS Faculty Forum: a nonlegislative body in which faculty can discuss concerns and ideas, and work on solutions to affect policy. The SAS Faculty Forum would initially meet (locally and online) sometime during the first three weeks of the Spring 2016 semester to discuss any proposal that comes to it by January 1. Subsequently, the Faculty Forum could be called by any faculty member's proposal with ten faculty members signing on (and at least twenty five interested in attending—*see Convener, below*).

The Faculty Forum will be organized around practices of consensus decision-making. The Faculty Forum will have two faculty officers, a Convener and a Facilitator—one to issue a call for proposals and to convene a Forum (when warranted); and, the other to run the Forum meeting or help the Proposer organize it to fit the proposal. For the purpose of the first SAS Faculty Forum, the maker of this proposal will serve as Convener and if necessary as Facilitator.

The SAS Deans Office will allow the Faculty Forum Convener to send email to the SAS faculty to notify them of calls for proposals and of Faculty Forum meetings; and, will facilitate obtaining meeting rooms and technology to enable online attendance.

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Robert Boikess
Kate Ellis
Judith Gerson
Martin Gliserman
Charles Haberl
Dorothy Hodgson
David Hughes
Toby Jones
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Michael Rockland
Evie Shockley
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